

Port 11/24/72

FBI Chief Stricken in Connecticut

NEW LONDON, Conn., Nov 20 (UPI)—Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III was hospitalized today following an attack of abdominal pains at his home in nearby Stonington.

Gray, 56, was stricken Sunday and taken to the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital here. John W. Hushen, spokesman for the Justice Department, said Gray was undergoing "observations and tests."

A hospital spokesman said later that Gray's "condition is satisfactory and he is resting comfortably."

Gray, a crew-cut ex-submarine commander, who took over the bureau after J. Edgar Hoover died on May 2, was under stress in recent days as a result of an airplane hijacking in which he commanded agents to shoot out the tires of a Southern Airways jet in Orlando, Fla.

In the tense, 28-hour drama the job of coping with the hijackers fell on Gray's shoulders.

Hushen initially reported that Gray had a history of abdominal troubles, starting with a ruptured appendix in World War II, but he later said Gray had not been bothered by abdominal troubles following his wartime operation.